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Union CSD Bond Referendum: Investing in Transportation and Agriculture Education

LA PORTE CITY, IA — Union Community School District voters will consider a general obligation bond referendum in November that would address critical facility needs, including a long-discussed new bus barn and replacement of the district greenhouse.

Both projects support Union CSD's broader goal of upgrading infrastructure and enhancing educational spaces for students and staff.

The need for a new bus barn has been evident for nearly 30 years. The district's current facility was built for smaller buses and no longer meets the needs of today's 77- and 84-passenger fleet. Buses extend beyond the garage doors, leaving them exposed to the elements and even animals.

The shop is unable to support simple maintenance operations for the district's fleet, and during the winter months, makes routine cleaning difficult.

Union CSD's vision for this new transportation building is to provide a facility capable of efficiently maintaining its vehicle fleet from storage to washing and routine maintenance. A new facility will provide adequate space for vehicles, proper equipment, an indoor wash bay, climate control, and office and storage areas—all of which will extend the life of the fleet, lower long-term costs, and boost driver morale.

In addition, the referendum includes replacing the district's greenhouse. Due to its age, the shell is no longer energy efficient, and controls are not functioning to support a greenhouse environment. A new greenhouse will provide the opportunity for students to learn greenhouse management and even grow their own plants for a school plant sale. These new opportunities for high school students will strengthen the district's FFA and agriculture course offerings.

Together, these projects reflect the district's commitment to responsible infrastructure improvements that support both daily operations and student learning. More details about the bond referendum for Union CSD are available at www.uknighted4u.org.

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